

Agricultural Advisory Commission  
Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2010

Members Present: Peter B, Pam B, Wendell W, Al C, Tim A, Candy F

Guests: Tim Bragen – Town Administrator

Called to order at 7:30 PM

Old Business – Minutes accepted from previous meeting; Continued discussion about U-Pick Signs

New Business – There was a complaint made to the Selectmen about 24 signs being displayed for one apple orchard in town. U-Pick signs do not fall under the bylaws. The Selectmen have authorized that these signs can be up until December 31

It was discussed that the Agricultural Commission would take the permitting process from the Selectmen. Also discussion took place regarding whether to limit the number of signs. The Agricultural Commission encourages the Selectmen to send U-Pick sign applications to the Agricultural Commission first for review of potential red flags, to allow the Agi Commission to address issues and then to return said applications to the Selectmen. Applications are sent out in July. If a complaint comes to the Selectmen they (Tim Bragen) will it to the Agi Commission for mediation and only send it back to the Selectmen if the Agi Commission is unable to resolve the issue.

Al Combs motioned to elect the new chairman and it was seconded. Wendell Willard is the new Chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Commission. No discussion was held regarding a vice-chair.

The Agi Commission reviewed a letter submitted by Bill Barrett, at Paul Willard's request, to send this commission's concerning Conservation Land for Farming to the Conservation Committee. There was considerable discussion as to how to protect farmers presently farming these parcels of land. Frank Carlson moved to accept the letter drafted by Bill Barrett and Wendell Willard signed it. It will be passed on to the Conservation Committee.

Updates on projects the Agi Commission has been working on:

- Al Coombs will meet with Pat Dothry of the Conservation Commission about open space maps
- Pam Browning has looked into a website for the Agi Commission, including the standalone site in use by Bolton. Al Combs suggested that any such action would most likely legally require a formal RFP. Wendell Willard noted that the Town's website may suffice for the purposes of this commission and that this should be explored as an alternative to spending. The question of maintenance of the web site was also raised. The Agi Commission agreed to take an extensive look at Bolton's site to discuss at the next meeting. The Commission intends gather information as to what this committee could or could not do through the Town's website
- The Agi Committee agreed not to convene in December, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Frazer

